

## EASTERN UTAH

# Utahraptor slashes way to fame

*Discovery of rock leads to excavation of 'Jurassic Park'-type villain.*

**By Joseph Bauman**  
Deseret News science writer

In October 1989, Rob Gaston picked up a lump of rock from an eastern Utah talus slope. He never could have dreamed it would lead to international publicity tied into 1993's expected blockbuster summer movie "Jurassic Park."

The rock, which Gaston found

on a mesa near the foot of the Book Cliffs in Grand County, held part of the fossil of a nodosaurus, a small, armored dinosaur.

The nodosaurus was a wonderful discovery. But the excavations prompted by that find in what became known as the "Gaston Quarry" soon unearthed something even more remarkable, the previously unknown "super-slasher" dinosaur called *Utahraptor*.

By coincidence, the Utah-raptor's physical remains closely fit the depiction of a main villain in the film. The movie — about re-

creating dinosaurs for a theme park, with horrifying consequences — opens Friday.

Timed to coincide with the opening of the film, the name of the Utahraptor is officially being designated as "Utahraptor Spielbergi," after the movie's director, Steven Spielberg.

When he found the first rock, Gaston worked in Lin Ottenger's Moab rock shop. Recognizing the grapefruit-sized lump contained part of a dinosaur's armor plating, he brought it to the shop.

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## Dinosaur-mania sparks reminder of fossil laws

**By Jerry Spangler**  
Deseret News staff writer

It is unavoidable and inevitable. And at this point, there's not a whole lot you can do to even get out of the way.

With "Jurassic Park" set to open at movie theaters Friday, most of the nation is bracing for a wave of unprecedented dinosaur-mania. T-shirts, games, stuffed toys, videos, documentaries.

Dinosaurs are hot. So hot that the Bureau of Land Management, which manages millions of acres of fossil-rich lands in Utah and other Western states, has stepped up a campaign to let the public know that while dinosaurs are cool, it is also illegal to collect real dinosaurs on public lands.

"We're concerned," said Lee Spencer, BLM paleontologist in Utah. "I anticipate there will be people who will see the movie and

would like to find dinosaur fossils themselves but won't know what to look for. And that will increase the market for people to buy them."

The concern over potential fossil pilfering from public lands prompted the BLM to recruit "Jurassic Park" author Michael Crichton to make public service announcements to encourage

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Archaeologists dig for fossils at the Gaston Quarry where the *Utahraptor* — a previously unknown “superslasher” — was found.

## NEWSLINE

## 'Jurassic Park' showing to benefit BYU museum

**PROVO** — A benefit screening of director Stephen Spielberg's newest film will boost dinosaur research efforts at Brigham Young University when the University Mall Cineplex Odeon theaters show "Jurassic Park" Monday, June 14, at 7:30 p.m.

The BYU Earth Science Museum is one of 15 nonprofit organizations selected from hundreds of applications nationwide to receive the nod from Universal Pictures for the special screening, said Janita Andersen, director of program development at the museum.

The benefit will include a reception at the museum followed by a showing of the film at the movie complex. The event will begin at 6 p.m. with a reception at the museum, 1683 N. Canyon Road, west of Cougar Stadium.

Reservations for tickets at \$20 each can be made through the museum, 378-Catherine days through Fri

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